

**METHOD AND VISUAL INTERFACE
FOR EVALUATING MULTI-ATTRIBUTE
BIDS IN A NETWORK ENVIRONMENT**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method for purchasing and selling products or services in a networked
environment using a request for quotation process and a visual interface for evaluating
submitted bids for such products or services. A buyer submits a Request for
Quotation (RFQ) and associated attributes and/or business rules over a network. As
seller responds to the RFQ by submitting a bid with attribute values. A market maker
10 uses the buyer attributes and/or business rules with the attribute values of the
submitted bid to create a visual interface augmented by customized filters which are
later used to evaluate seller submitted bids. The bids are received in the e-
marketplace, at which time the e-marketplace can arrange, sort or filter the received
bids in order to assist the buyer in examining and evaluating such bids. The filtering
15 may include filtering an attribute value, an attribute line, a bid line or a portion of the
bid line.

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